

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

~~C L A I M S~~What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A separator for shredded tobacco comprising a column ~~(2)~~ provided at its bottom with a perforated plate ~~(6)~~ inclined towards a discharge duct ~~(8)~~, and further provided with an entry duct ~~(4)~~ for the shredded tobacco and a feed pipe ~~10~~ for air which propels the shredded tobacco upwards, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the upper mouth of the column faces a mesh conveyor ~~(18)~~ movable substantially transversely to the vertical axis of the column, said conveyor forming an element by which the upward rise of the shredded tobacco is halted and is conveyed towards a member ~~(30)~~ for removing and conveying the tobacco.

2. (Amended) A separator as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a suction system ~~(16)~~ situated in a position overlying the conveyor belt.

3. (Amended) A separator as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a compressed air diffuser pipe ~~(30)~~.